

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 322-3216



November 4, 1980

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I- 121-80

- TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

ATTN: SPECIAL INVESTIGATION UNITS

SUBJECT: REQUESTS FOR ABSTRACTS OF BENEFITS PAID AND PHOTOCOPIES OF SSA CHECKS

REFERENCE:

The Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services has put in place a pilot project in California which will enable counties to obtain either or both abstracts of benefits paid to Social Security recipients and photocopies of the actual Social Security checks when needed during the course of a fraud investigation.

Previously, requests for this type of information were forwarded to the DSS Fraud Prevention Section. It was found, however, that the turnaround time for obtaining these documents ranged between six months to three years. The Office of Inspector General has now indicated that the requests for either the abstract of benefits paid or copies of the Social Security checks should be forwarded directly to their branch office in Sacramento. This office has indicated the turnaround time when requesting the abstracts should be approximately three weeks, and for photocopies of checks, approximately 14 weeks. The Office of Inspector General also recommends that requests for photocopies of the actual checks be initiated only when absolutely necessary, in the course of prosecuting welfare fraud.

The information requests should be sent directly to:

Mr. Thomas T. Sheehan
Special Agent
Inspector General, DHEW
P.O. Box 1523
Sacramento, CA 95807
(916) 440-2801

and must contain the following information:

1. All available identifying information concerning the person(s) about whom the information is sought, including the social security number under which the benefits are presumed to have been issued; the claim

number, if any; other names the recipient may have been known to use; and any other information available which may assist the Social Security Administration in tracing requested material.

2. The categorical aid involved.
3. The reason for the request for information and/or service.
4. The period to be covered by the request.
5. Whether an abstract of the record (to be certified or not) or photocopies of the social security checks (to be certified or not), or whether both are required. Sometimes a certified abstract of the record of payments for a given period of time can be secured faster and will serve the purpose for which intended, than the more lengthy request for certified photocopies of actual social security checks issued.

If you have any questions regarding this procedure or foresee any problems in obtaining this documentation, please contact either Mr. Sheehan directly at the above number, or Judy Watson of the Fraud Prevention Section at (916) 920-7646.

Sincerely,


PHILIP J. MANRIQUEZ
Deputy Director

cc: CWDA